

Campus theft: Records and an Amplifier

Integrator

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WNTC/WTSC

When it comes to theft, perhaps the worst hit of the CCSA-funded organizations are the campus radio stations, WNTC/WTSC-FM. Jeremy Hitt, manager of the two stations, estimates that approximately 200-300 records are lost every year. Most of them are not replaced.

Theft from the radio stations is, surprisingly enough, an inside problem. And it is not a new phenomena, either. It is impossible to properly police the stations, as they remain open from early morning to late night.

Equipment losses plagued the stations in the past, but these have been sporadic events. The most recent loss, almost a year ago, of a cable line amplifier, is one that still mystifies station officials. A line amplifier is a rather unimpressive-looking box, and is

useless outside of the cable system. It is only worth a couple of hundred dollars, and even though a reward was offered; the unit was never recovered.

Everybody is hurt when records are stolen from the radio stations. Some of them are very old, no longer in print, therefore impossible to replace. Others are new, and these are sometimes replaced, especially if they were popular. Yet the money spent on replacing records could be better put to use buying other things the stations need, and the disc-jockeys and listeners alike would not be faced with the frustration of "getting by" without favorite songs. Record theft makes even less sense when one realizes that many of the records in the station are quite worn and usually sound terrible on home stereos, which lack the capacity of radio station equipment to reduce

scratches and pops. On top of that, all radio station albums are plainly marked with call letters and other information, making identification easy and possession risky.

WCKN-TV8

WCKN, the campus TV station, developed a sophisticated system to combat the theft of small tools and components that was plaguing the station a couple of years ago. One person was placed in charge of the tools, and thus there was always somebody keeping tabs on things. According to Geoff Akiki, theft from the station has been practically eliminated in the past year because station managers take special care when issuing keys, and collecting them again from unauthorized personnel.

K2CC and Outing Club

K2CC, the Amateur Radio Club, and the Outing

Club, did not report much of a theft problem, and indicate that aside from a few isolated occurrences, they never really have had one. The leaders of these organizations feel that the reasons for this may be that everybody knows everybody else in these clubs, and also, much of the equipment is redundant—that is, most of the members already own similar items.

While theft from college organizations seems to be mainly limited to things that people can use outside the organizations, one has to wonder what kind of people would steal things belonging to the whole college community. Obviously the damage is being done by only a few people, but the main question one should ask here: why does the rest of the community turn its back on the problem, allowing those guilty to get away with whatever they please?

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